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~~Abstract~~

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

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A communications system comprises a central unit (101) and terminals (102, 103, 104). It is equipped so as to establish and maintain a signaling connection between the central unit and at least one terminal using one of at least two alternative signaling protocols. To that end it comprises in the central unit means for indicating to a terminal the signaling protocols supported by the central unit, and means for setting up via the central unit's network interface a signaling connection between the central unit's signaling unit and the terminal, using a selected signaling protocol. Correspondingly, in the terminal the system comprises means for indicating to the central unit the signaling protocol supported by the terminal in response to a message sent by the central unit as well as means for setting up via the terminal's network interface a signaling connection between the terminal's signaling unit and the central unit, using a protocol supported by the terminal.

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~~Fig. 1~~